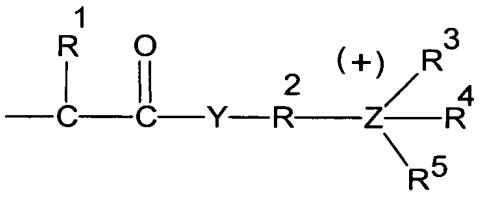
Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please cancel claims 1-12.

13. (New) A polymer comprising quaternary ammonium groups and/or quaternary phosphonium groups bound to the backbone of the polymer consisting of or comprising a group of formula:



wherein

Y is O or NH, Z is N or P, R^1 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_4 alkyl group, preferably hydrogen or a C_1-C_2 alkyl group,

R^2 is a C_2 or a C_3-C_{12} divalent hydrocarbon group, preferably a C_2 or a C_3-C_8 divalent hydrocarbon group, more preferably a C_2 or a C_3-C_4 divalent hydrocarbon group.

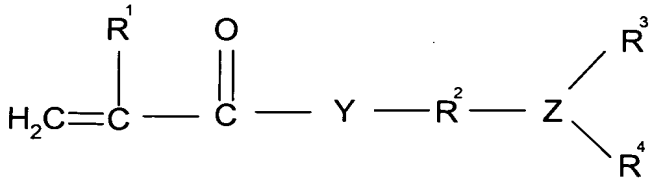
R^3 and R^4 independently represent a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, preferably methyl, or an optionally substituted phenyl group,

R^5 is a C_1-C_5 alkyl group, preferably methyl,

said quaternary ammonium groups and/or quaternary phosphonium groups being neutralised by counter-ions that consist of the anionic residue of an acid having an aliphatic, aromatic, or alkaryl hydrocarbon group comprising 6 or more carbon atoms.

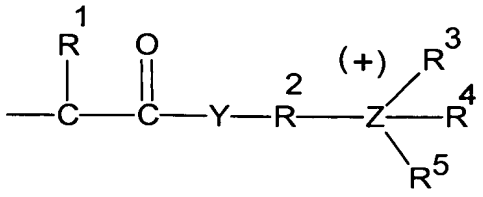
14. (New) Process for the preparation of a polymer comprising quaternary ammonium groups and/or quaternary phosphonium groups bound to the backbone of the polymer, comprising the steps of:

- Quaternisation of an amine- or phosphine-functional monomer of formula (I):
  wherein Y is O or NH, Z is N or P, R^1 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_4 alkyl



  group, R^2 is a C_2 or a C_3-C_{12} alkylene group, R^3 and R^4 independently represent a C_1-C_6 alkylene group or an optionally substituted phenyl group.
- Replacement of the counter-ion of the quaternised ammonium or phosphonium monomer by a carboxylate group derived from an acid having an aliphatic, aromatic, or alkaryl hydrocarbon group comprising 6 or more carbon atoms.
- Polymerisation of at least one type of long-chain acid-capped quaternary ammonium monomer and/or at least one type of long-chain, acid-capped quaternary phosphonium-functional monomer.

15. (New) Anti-fouling coating compositions comprising an ingredient having marine biocidal properties and a polymer comprising quaternary ammonium groups and/or quaternary phosphonium groups bound to the backbone of the polymer consisting of or comprising a group of formula:



wherein

Y is O or NH, Z is N or P, R^1 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_4 alkyl group, preferably hydrogen or a C_1-C_2 alkyl group,

R^2 is a C_2 or a C_3-C_{12} divalent hydrocarbon group, preferably a C_2 or a C_3-C_8 divalent hydrocarbon group, more preferably a C_2 or a C_3-C_4 divalent hydrocarbon group.

R^3 and R^4 independently represent a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, preferably methyl, or an optionally substituted phenyl group,

R^5 is a C_1-C_5 alkyl group, preferably methyl,

said quaternary ammonium groups and/or quaternary phosphonium groups being neutralised by counter-ions that consist of the anionic residue of an acid having an aliphatic, aromatic, or alkaryl hydrocarbon group comprising 6 or more carbon atoms.

16. (New) Coating composition according to claim 15, characterised in that the counter-ions comprise 6 to 50 carbon atoms.

17. (New) Coating composition according to claim 15, characterised in that the coating composition additionally comprises a rosin material.

18. (New) Coating composition according to claim 17, characterised in that the coating composition has a binder comprising a blend of a rosin material and an auxiliary film-forming resin in a weight ratio of 20:80 to 95:5, the auxiliary film-forming resin comprising 20-100% by weight of a quaternary ammonium- and/or quaternary phosphonium-functional film-forming polymer (A), the quaternised groups of which are blocked by groups capable of hydrolysing, dissociating or exchanging with seawater species to leave a polymer soluble in seawater, the blocking groups being anionic residues of acids having an aliphatic, aromatic, or alkaryl hydrocarbon group comprising 6 or more carbon atoms, and 80-20% of a non-hydrolysing, water-insoluble film-forming polymer (B).

19. (New) Coating composition according to claim 18, characterised in that the binder comprises a blend of the rosin material and the auxiliary film-forming resin in a weight ratio of 55:45 to 80:20.

20. (New) Coating composition according to claim 18, characterised in that the auxiliary film-forming resin comprises 30-90% by weight of the film-forming polymer (A) capable of hydrolysing or dissociating to a polymer soluble in sea water and 70-10% by weight of the non-hydrolysing, water-insoluble film-forming polymer (B).

21. (New) Coating composition according to claim 18, characterised in that the non-hydrolysing, water-insoluble film-forming polymer (B) is an acrylate ester polymer or a vinyl ether polymer.

22. (New) Coating composition according to claim 15, characterised in that the binder includes a non-polymeric plasticiser present at up to 50% by weight based on the total binder polymer.

23. (New) Method of coating man-made structures immersed in water such as boat hulls, buoys, drilling platforms, oil production rigs, and pipes, comprising coating said structures with the composition of claim 15.